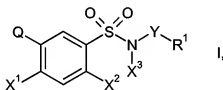


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A compound which is a benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I



in which the variables are as defined below:

X¹ is hydrogen or halogen;

X² is chlorine;

X³ is hydrogen, cyano, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₆-alkenyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyl or phenyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, where the phenyl radical for its part may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy;

Y is a group -C(A)B;

A is oxygen;

B is oxygen or sulfur;

R¹ is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₆-C₇-cycloalkenyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyloxy, C₂-C₆-alkenyloxy, C₃-C₆-alkynyloxy, aryl, aryloxy, aryl-C₁-C₄-alkyl;

where the 13 last mentioned radicals for their part may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may carry one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of cyano, NO₂, hydroxyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyloxy, C₂-C₆-alkenyloxy, C₃-C₆-alkynyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, amino, C₁-C₆-alkylamino, di(C₁-C₆-alkyl)amino, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxysulfonyl, formyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkylcarbonyl, C₂-C₆-alkenylcarbonyl, C₃-C₆-alkynylcarbonyl, carboxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxycarbonyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyloxycarbonyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyloxycarbonyl, mercaptocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthiocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthiocarbonyl, C₂-C₆-alkenylthiocarbonyl, C₃-C₆-alkynylthiocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C₁-C₆-alkylamino)carbonyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkylaminocarbonyl, di(C₁-C₆-haloalkylamino)carbonyl, C₂-C₆-alkenylaminocarbonyl, di(C₂-C₆-alkenylamino)carbonyl, C₃-C₆-alkynylaminocarbonyl, di(C₃-C₆-alkynylamino)carbonyl, phenyl, phenoxy, phenyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl and phenyl-C₁-C₄-alkoxy;

four- to six-membered heterocyclyl which may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy; or

four- to six-membered heterocyclyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl which may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy; or

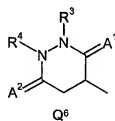
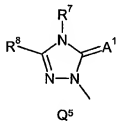
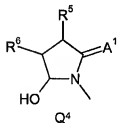
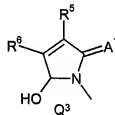
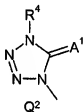
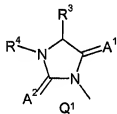
five- or six-membered heteroaryl having one to four nitrogen atoms or having one to three nitrogen atoms and one oxygen or one sulfur atom or having one oxygen or sulfur atom, which radical may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, amino, C₁-C₆-alkylamino and di(C₁-C₆-alkyl)amino; or

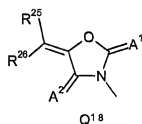
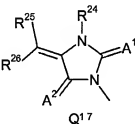
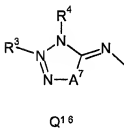
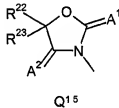
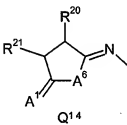
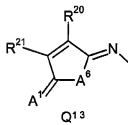
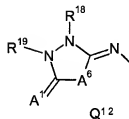
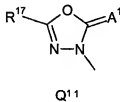
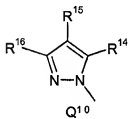
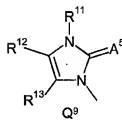
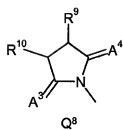
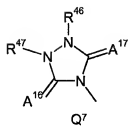
five- or six-membered heteroaryl-C₁-C₄-alkyl having one to four nitrogen atoms or having one to three nitrogen atoms and one oxygen or one sulfur atom or having one oxygen or sulfur atom, which radical may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, amino, C₁-C₆-alkylamino and di(C₁-C₆-alkyl)amino;

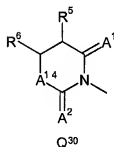
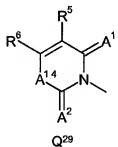
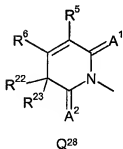
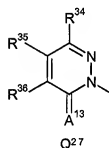
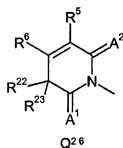
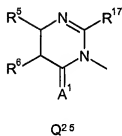
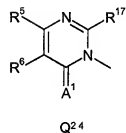
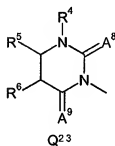
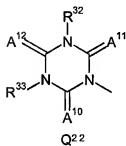
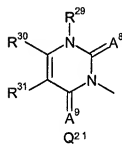
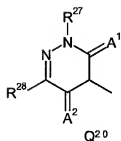
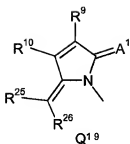
R^2 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 -alkyl, C_2 - C_8 -alkenyl, C_3 - C_8 -alkynyl, C_3 - C_7 -cycloalkyl, where the four last mentioned radicals may be partially or fully halogenated; or

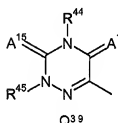
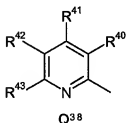
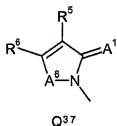
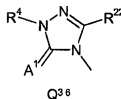
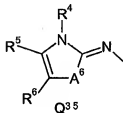
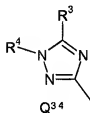
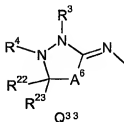
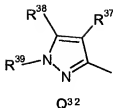
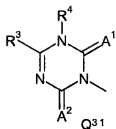
R^1 and R^2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a three to seven membered heterocycle which for its part may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_6 -haloalkyl and C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy;

Q is a radical selected from the group consisting of Q^1 to Q^{39}









A¹ to A¹⁷ are oxygen or sulfur;

R³, R⁴, R⁷, R⁶, R¹¹, R¹², R¹⁶, R¹⁹, R²⁷, R²⁹, R³², R³³, R³⁸, R³⁹, R⁴⁴, R⁴⁵, R⁴⁶ and R⁴⁷ are hydrogen, cyano, hydroxyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-cyanoalkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-haloalkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyloxy, C₃-C₆-alkynyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl, phenyl-C₁-C₆-alkyl, amino, C₁-C₆-alkylamino or di(C₁-C₆-alkyl)amino; or R³ and R⁴, R¹¹ and R¹², R¹⁸ and R¹⁹, or R⁴⁶ and R⁴⁷ together with the atoms to which they are attached form a three- to seven-membered heterocycle

which for its part may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy;

R⁵, R⁶, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R²⁰, R²¹, R³⁰, R³¹, R³⁵, R³⁶, R⁴¹, R⁴² and R⁴³

are hydrogen, hydroxyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-haloalkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyloxy, C₃-C₆-alkynyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy-sulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyloxy, amino, C₁-C₆-alkylamino or di(C₁-C₆-alkyl)amino; or

R⁵ and R⁶, R⁹ and R¹⁰, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶, R²⁰ and R²¹, or R³⁰ and R³¹ together with the atoms to which they are attached form a three- to seven-membered heterocycle which for its part may be partially or fully halogenated and/or substituted by one to three radicals selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy;

R¹³, R¹⁴, R²², R²³, R²⁵ and R²⁶

are hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl;

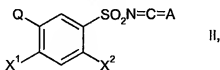
R¹⁷, R²⁸, R³⁴, R³⁷ and R⁴⁰

are hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-haloalkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyloxy, C₃-C₆-alkynyl or C₃-C₆-alkynyloxy;

R^{24} is hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_6 -haloalkyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkynyl, C_1 - C_6 -haloalkoxy, amino, C_1 - C_6 -alkylamino or $di(C_1$ - C_6 -alkyl)amino;

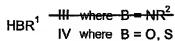
or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, in which X^1 is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine.
18. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, in which Q is Q^1 , Q^2 , Q^5 , Q^7 , Q^8 , Q^{10} , Q^{12} , Q^{13} , Q^{17} , Q^{20} , Q^{21} , Q^{22} , Q^{23} , Q^{24} , Q^{27} , Q^{31} , Q^{32} , Q^{34} , Q^{38} or Q^{39} .
19. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, in which Q is Q^7 , Q^{21} , Q^{22} , Q^{27} , Q^{32} , Q^{38} or Q^{39} .
20. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of claim 16, where X^3 is hydrogen, which comprises reacting a benzenesulfonyl Iso(thio)cyanate of the formula II



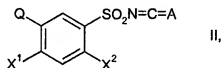
where X^1 , X^2 , A and Q are as defined in claim 16,

with an amine of the formula III or an alcohol or thiol of the formula IV



where R^1 and R^2 are as defined in claim 16.

21. (Previously Presented) A benzenesulfonyl iso(thio)cyanate of the formula II



where X^1 , X^2 , A and Q are as defined in claim 16.

22. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 and auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.
23. (Previously Presented) A composition for the desiccation and/or defoliation of plants, comprising such an amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 that acts as a desiccant and/or defoliant, and auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.

24. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing herbicidally effective compositions, which comprises mixing a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 and auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.
25. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing compositions having desiccant and/or defoliant action, which comprises mixing a desiccant and/or defoliant effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 16 and auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.
26. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, wherein a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 is allowed to act on the unwanted vegetation, their habitat and/or on their seeds.
27. (Previously Presented) A method for the desiccation and/or defoliation of plants, which comprises allowing a desiccant and/or defoliant effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 16 to act on the plants.
28. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, wherein the compound is a compound of formulae 1.2.1 to 1.2.689.
29. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, wherein the compound is a compound of formulae 1.3.1 to 1.3.689.

30. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, wherein the compound is a compound of formulae 1.8.1 to 1.8.689.
31. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, wherein the compound is a compound of formulae 1.9.1 to 1.9.689.
32. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, wherein the compound is a compound of formulae 1.14.1 to 1.14.689.
33. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, wherein the compound is a compound of formulae 1.15.1 to 1.15.689.
34. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, wherein the compound is a compound of formulae 1.20.1 to 1.20.689.
35. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, wherein the compound is a compound of formulae 1.21.1 to 1.21.689.
36. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, wherein the compound is a compound of formulae 1.26.1 to 1.26.689.
37. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, wherein the compound is a

compound of formulae 1.27.1 to 1.27.689.

38. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, wherein the compound is a compound of formulae 1.32.1 to 1.32.689.

39. (Previously Presented) A compound of claim 16, wherein the compound is a compound of formulae 1.33.1 to 1.33.689.